GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3701
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006
JOINT REGISTRATION OF BASMATI RICE BY INDIA AND PAKISTAN
Abdullakutty Shri A.P.;Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba;Sen Smt. Minati;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Vallabhbhaneni Shri Balashowry;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan propose to jointly register basmati rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present stage of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

a) to c) : A decision was taken for exploring the possibility of a joint application by India and Pakistan for registration of Basmati Rice as a Geographical Indication. Accordingly, the Minister for Commerce & Industry of India addressed a letter to the Minister of Trade of Pakistan on 10.5.2005 in which it was suggested that a sub-group of Joint Study Group can be constituted for holding consultations on this issue. On 18.11.2005, Government of India decided to constitute a Joint Study Group in Department of Commerce to look into all aspects regarding joint registration of Basmati Rice as GI with Pakistan. This Joint Study Group will identify the rationale for the joint registration, what India and Pakistan needed to do for protecting Basmati as GI and the set of activities that both Governments would need to complete to realize this objective.